

School Psychology Newsletter

Fall 2016

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Ready to Roll!

The 2016-2017 academic year is off to a great start for the JMU School Psychology Program! After attending dinner hosted by Dr. Ashton Trice, the first and second year students and faculty visited the American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton to see a production of *Two Gentlemen from Verona*. The students were impressed with the character of the theater itself and the lively performance and musical styling of the performers. The play and dinner provided students from both cohorts to get to know each other and appreciate some of the cultural aspects that Harrisonburg's surrounding communities has to offer.

Even more bonding took place during an exciting and productive morning at the UREC's TEAM (Team Empowerment with Adventure for Madison) Challenge Course! Students and faculty took part in several activities that helped to promote teamwork and problem solving skills with plenty of laughs along the way.





Where are our Interns?

Our third year students have been doing a wonderful job thus far in their internship placements and representing our program well. Here is where our students are currently interning:

- Spencer Brookbank – Loudoun County Public Schools, Ashburn, Virginia
- Elizabeth Coalter – Culpeper County Public Schools, Culpeper, Virginia
- Breonna Davis – Hampton City Schools, Hampton, Virginia
- Steven Powell – Halifax County Public Schools, Halifax, Virginia
- Mandi Simmers – Harrisonburg City Public Schools, Harrisonburg, Virginia
- Denton Warburton – Shenandoah County Public Schools, Woodstock, Virginia
- Ginger Wayland – Prince William County Public Schools, Manassas, Virginia
- Michelle Whitham – Englewood Public School District, Englewood, Colorado

Keep up the great work, JMU Interns!

School Psychology Master's Celebration

On July 28th, 2016, the School Psychology program proudly announced the successful completion of requirements to an outstanding group of emerging school psychologists. Students, families, and friends came together to celebrate the first major step in the process of becoming a professional school psychologist. The School Psychology program prides itself on training competent professionals in the areas of assessment, consultation, counseling, crisis management and prevention as well as many core fundamentals in the areas of education and psychology. Congratulations to all students on their accomplishments!





True Colors Shining Bright Workshop

On September 9th the School Psychology program sponsored a half-day workshop, "True Colors Shining Bright: Providing Counseling Support for LGBTQ++ Youth." Presented by Amy Cannava, an alumnae of the JMU School Psychology program, the presentation focused on advocacy and the necessary skills needed to support LGBTQ students in schools. First and second year students, interns, faculty, and other professionals from around the Shenandoah Valley were in attendance. The program thanks Amy for highlighting so many of the important aspects of working with and advocating for this population within a school system.

Featured School Psychologist

Our featured School Psychologist is Ms. Lori Golden, who works for Rockingham County Public Schools. Lori, an alum of Alfred University, has proudly served in Rockingham County Public Schools for 13 years! She supports two elementary schools, a middle and a high school where she splits her time to work with a wide population of students.

Lori has a passion for working with students and an energy that is contagious for those around her. She explained the best part of her day is "a smile, wave or high five from a student I have had an opportunity to work with." Within Rockingham County, there is a lot of focus on using "current technology to *enhance* student learning." In the spring of 2014, a five year program with the purpose to incorporate technology into the classroom was introduced. The main goal is to "fundamentally change the learning environment" in the schools so it will reflect the ever-changing world of technology to best serve the students.

When asked about some current, successful interventions, Lori discussed some interventions from Florida Center for Reading Research with preschoolers. These interventions are based around language and vocabulary, phonological awareness and alphabet knowledge. For more information on these resources, feel free to visit http://www.fcr.org/resources/resources_vpk.html. While discussing some areas that still need to be improved, Lori explained: "Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in behavioral difficulties in our students starting as early as preschool. More research-based (practical) intervention support for this age-group would be beneficial."



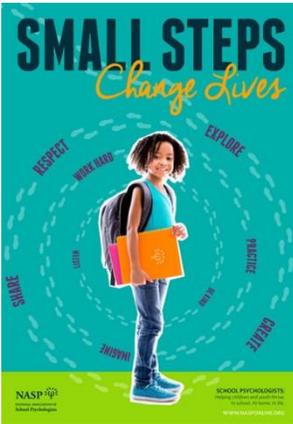
Fall 2016 VASP Conference

The fall 2016 VASP conference was held on September 28th through the 30th at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center in Blacksburg, VA. The VASP board meeting occurred on Wednesday evening, while Thursday and Friday were filled with informative and helpful workshops. School Psychologists, clinicians, and graduate students were in attendance for CPD credits and professional development hours. With travel reimbursement assistance from the program, two faculty members, eight first and second year students, and two interns were able to attend the conference. JMU's School Psychology faculty, Dr. Debi Kipps-Vaughan presented a workshop on Friday afternoon, titled *Counseling Interventions: Adding to Your Bag of Techniques*.

Interprofessional Collaboration

On November 11th, 2016, School Psychology, Occupational Therapy, School Counseling, Special Education and Speech/Language Pathology graduate students will gather for the Interprofessional Education Seminar to enhance their collaboration skills. The day-long workshop will begin by separating students into one of five groups to learn more about each discipline. Following lunch, students will form groups and process case studies that require students to contribute and collaborate with each other to achieve desired goals. The day will conclude with students coming back together in one large group to discuss take-home points to use in the future when collaborating with others in the schools.

Small Steps Change Lives



Small Steps Change Lives is the theme for School Psychology Awareness Week 2016. NASP and the school psychology community celebrate this week every year through various activities, initiatives, and programs. The JMU School Psychology program has a tradition of recognizing the efforts of school psychologists in the community during this week with gifts of appreciation. The program also strives to raise awareness about school psychology in the JMU community through presentations in undergraduate psychology classes, giving undergraduate psychology professors an informational flyer, and reading to students at local elementary schools.



Stay Tuned!

The School Psychology program is currently working with the JMU College of Health & Behavioral Studies Creative Services department to produce an informational video about the program. Look for the video on the home page of the School Psychology program website in the spring!

Find us on Facebook!

Check out the JMU Graduate Psychology Facebook page to see other School Psychology program activities, and other goings on in the Graduate Psychology community.

Support Future School Psychologists

To support the School Psychology Program and the training of our students, consider making a contribution to the JMU Foundation specifying **Account Number 14789**. We value your continued support in maintaining our educational excellence by providing funds that go towards professional development and materials for student research. Contributions can also be made specifically to the O. Ashton Trice Scholarship which awards summer tuition support. Please refer to **Account Number 1002149**.

Please keep in mind, many Graduate Assistantships no longer cover the full 12 credits per semester or any of summer tuition.

Please mail checks to:

Advanced Gift and Record
James Madison University
800 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 2280



Contact Us!

Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D.
Program Director
gilligtd@jmu.edu

Debbi Kipps-Vaughan, Psy.D.
Practicum Coordinator
kippsvdx@jmu.edu

Patti Warner, Ph.D.
Internship Coordinator
warnerpj@jmu.edu

Ashton Trice, Ed.D.
Research Coordinator
tricead@jmu.edu

Check out the JMU School Psychology Website at:
<http://psyc.jmu.edu/school/>

Did we miss someone? Please send us **e-mail addresses** of colleagues who did not receive our newsletter.